



Central Section

American Planning Association - California Chapter

Equity Planning 101 and 102: An Interactive Half-Day Workshop Hosted by the Central Section APA *Promoting a Deeper Awareness and Understanding of the History and Impacts of Racial Inequities and Exploring Actionable Steps that Planners can Take Moving Forward*

Friday, October 30, 2020

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS (11 – 11:15 a.m.)

- Central APA, [Carolina Ilic, Professional Development Officer](#); [Mario Anaya and Casey Lauderdale, Equity Co-Chairs](#)
- California APA, [Miroo Desai, Vice-President of Equity](#), <https://www.apacalifornia.org/resources/racial-justice-social-equity/>

EQUITY 101: UNDERSTANDING HOW WE GOT HERE (1 hour, 15 minutes) (11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

- **HOUSING:** [Video](#): Race & Redlining: Housing Segregation in Everything (7 minutes) (11:15 – 11:22 a.m.)

We will start our workshop with a video posted on the National Public Radio web site, explaining that “housing segregation is in everything. But to understand the root of this issue, you have to look at the government-backed policies that created the housing disparities we see today. Gene Demby explains how these policies came to be, and what effect they've had on schools, health, family wealth and policing.” <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2018/04/11/601494521/video-housing-segregation-in-everything>

Additional Resources:

- Segregated by Design (video), Watch The Color of Law author Richard Rothstein deliver a rapid fire primer on exclusionary zoning and racist federal policies. <https://vimeo.com/328684375>
- We'll overcome COVID-19, but can we overcome 400 years of wrongs? Naomi Mitchell Carrier, <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/09/23/racism-we-will-overcome-covid-19-can-we-overcome-400-years-1619>

- **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Public Health and Social Injustice: Detroit Case Study - How a Detroit neighborhood continues to suffer from 100 years of land-use decisions that put economic development before public health, [Lisa Berglund, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia](#) (20 minutes) (11:22 – 11:42 a.m.)

Dr. Berglund will discuss the effects of public investments in the form of tax subsidies that expand heavily-polluting industries in a majority Black neighborhood called Boynton in Southwest Detroit, known by its zip code 48217. Due to a substantial concentration of industrial operations, the 48217 zip code is the most polluted zip code in Michigan, and this has resulted in asthma rates 50 percent above the state average, and cancer rates 25 percent above the state average.

Additional Resources:

- We Fight So Many Battles: A Detroit neighborhood continues to suffer from 100 years of land-use decisions that put economic development before public health. Lisa Berglund, PhD, <https://www.planning.org/planning/2020/oct/we-fight-so-many-battles/>
 - How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering, Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich – New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html>
 - Racism Is a Public Health Crisis, Local Governments Declare. Decades of research confirms what COVID-19 statistics show: Racism is the leading cause of health inequities. How will states and cities respond? Christine Vestal, <https://www.planning.org/planning/2020/aug/intersections-equity/>
- **Interactive Survey #1** (1.5 minutes) (11:42 – 11:43 a.m.)
 - **GENTRIFICATION:** **Video:** Gentrification Explained: Understanding the Causes and Effects of Gentrification (7.5 minutes) (11:43 – 11:50 a.m.)

We will watch a video produced by the UC Berkeley Urban Displacement Project, the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and the Great Communities Collaborative, an initiative of the San Francisco Foundation, that explains how cities around the nation are undergoing profound economic and demographic change. For some residents, this signifies growing opportunity. But for lower-income households and communities of color, these changes—categorized broadly as gentrification pressures—are increasingly resulting in displacement from long-time homes and neighborhoods, often to suburban and exurban areas. Why does this matter? What role can community development play in addressing gentrification and displacement pressures? <https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/initiatives/gentrification-and-displacement/>

Additional Resources:

- Think Land Policy Is Unrelated to Racial Injustice? Think Again. George McCarthy – Lincoln Institute of Land Policy <https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/articles/presidents-message-6>
- How Decades of Racist Housing Policy Left Neighborhoods Sweltering, Brad Plumer and Nadja Popovich – New York Times, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/24/climate/racism-redlining-cities-global-warming.html>
- **TRANSPORTATION:** How Racism has Shaped Public Transit, **Christof Spieler, Vice President and Director of Planning at Huitt-Zollars and Senior Lecturer at Rice University** (20 minutes) (11:50 – 12:10 p.m.)

Christof Spieler will talk about how racism has shaped public transit, and how our transit operators often continue to espouse inequities. “From funding, planning and infrastructure, to design and policing, many transit agencies essentially have built two systems with different standards for “choice” and “dependent” riders (that is to say white and Black).” He will highlight examples comparing premier commuter transit services and local bus transit systems, including the vastly different experiences and levels of service of the passengers that use these systems. “The reality is that transit agencies are still managing and operating systems that have racism embedded in them. They have inherited past decisions, entrenched systems and ways of thinking. They’ve operated in a world full of racist policy — such as deed restrictions, zoning and mortgage lending policies designed to keep the suburbs white. In the United States, race has always been a part of transit. Even decisions that seem to be about technology can have racist outcomes — and sometimes those outcomes are intentional.”

Additional Resources:

- Racism Has Shaped Public Transit, and It’s Riddled with Inequities, Christof Spieler, <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/08/24/transportation-racism-has-shaped-public-transit-america-inequalities>
- To Fight Racism, Transit Has a Key Role. Black Lives Matter protests are showing how city leaders and transit agencies must reprioritize infrastructure investments, a public transit official argues. Darnell Grisby, City Lab <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-07-20/the-powerful-role-transit-plays-in-racial-justice?srnd=citylab&sref=ViNyghXi>
- What transit agencies get wrong about equity, and how to get it right, Mary Buchanan and Natalee Rivera, <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/08/31/what-transit-agencies-get-wrong-about-equity-and-how-get-it-right>

- What transit equity means to a transit-dependent rider in a car-centric city, Janis Scott, <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/09/08/what-transit-equity-means-transit-dependent-rider-car-centric-city>
- To tackle pandemic racism, we need to take action, not just take to social media, Tamika L. Butler, <https://kinder.rice.edu/urbanedge/2020/09/14/transportation-transit-tackle-pandemic-racism-we-need-take-action-not-just-take-social-media>
- **Interactive Survey #2** (1.5 min) (12:10 – 12:12 p.m.)
- **Break-Out Discussion:** How has the information presented so far affected how you think about systemic racism and inequity? (18 minutes) (12:12 – 12:30 p.m.)

BREAK (12:30 – 12:50 p.m.)

EQUITY 102: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR PLANNERS (2 hours, 5 min) (12:50 – 2:55 p.m.)

- **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN THE WORKFORCE:** Walking the Racial Equity Walk, **Desiree D. Powell, MCRP, BLCK SPCEs** (20 minutes) (12:50 – 1:10 p.m.)

As a Black female planner focusing on placemaking in Texas and the creator of BLCK SPCEs, where she writes about the Black experience in urban design, Desiree D. Powell acknowledges that, “while some planners have made and continue to make ground, we are not seeing large-scale progress... If the field is to ever change, we must confront its demons: the systemic racism planning has perpetuated. It has been ignored and pacified for decades.” She will make the point that we can’t continue to “talk the equity talk,” but rather, “We need to walk the equity walk — in practice, policy, and the overall presentation of planning. For Black planners, these efforts will serve as the beginning of transforming the entire narrative of our profession. For Black communities that have been systematically neglected for decades, our work has just begun.”

Additional Resources:

- Walking the Racial Equity Walk, Desiree D. Powell, <https://www.planning.org/planning/2020/aug/intersections-viewpoint/>

- Voices of Equity in Planning (Videos) (Equity: The Planner’s Responsibility; Equity Doesn’t Happen by Accident; APA Social Equity Task Force) <https://www.planning.org/diversity/voices-of-equity/>
- Concerned About Planning Equity? Start With Your Office, Carlee Griffith, <https://www.planning.org/blog/9205789/concerned-about-planning-equity-start-with-your-office/>
- Hispanic, Latino, Latina, or Latinx? An urban planning scholar traces the terms and shows how to be intentional about their use. Ivis Garcia, AICP, <https://www.planning.org/planning/2020/oct/tools-japa-takeaway/>
- **SYSTEMATIC APPROACH THROUGH RACIAL EQUITY GOALS AND STRATEGIES:** Portland Case Study: Acknowledging the Historical Context of Racist Planning and Taking Steps to Address the Historic Wrongs through Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies, **Dr. Koffi Dessou, Deputy Director of Portland’s Office of Equity and Human Rights** (20 minutes) (1:10 – 1:30 p.m.)

The City of Portland published a report entitled "Historical Context of Racist Planning," discussing how land-use planning contributed to ongoing racial segregation and inequity in Portland, and how understanding the harmful history helps move forward equitable planning work. https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/portland-racist-planning-history_general.10.2.19_pdf.pdf. In addition, as cities around the world address COVID-19 challenges, they're reimagining how they use policy tools to meet the needs of their residents. In Portland, Oregon, the city council recently adopted a resolution that highlights the connections between equity, climate, and COVID-19 recovery. Dr. Dessou will discuss the connection between the newly adopted resolution and planning practice.

Additional Resources:

- History of Racist Planning in Portland: How historical racist land use planning contributed to racial segregation and inequity for people of color in Portland, <https://www.portland.gov/bps/history-racist-planning-portland>
- City of Portland, Office of Equity and Human Rights: Citywide Racial Equity Goals and Strategies: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oehr/68111>
- Local and Regional Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/>
- **Break-Out Discussion:** Taking a moment to reflect upon the actionable steps discussed (20 minutes) (1:30 – 1:50)

- **ADDRESSING DISPLACEMENT: MODERN DAY SOLUTIONS:** Video: Pushed Out: (5 minutes) (1:50 – 1:55 p.m.)
<https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/initiatives/gentrification-and-displacement/>

The SF Fed has been working with the [Urban Displacement Project](#) at UC Berkeley and the [Great Communities Collaborative](#), an initiative of [The San Francisco Foundation](#), to identify the range of strategies that public, private, and nonprofit sector stakeholders can use to foster more inclusive and equitable regional growth. There is no single path to equitable growth; rather, multiple intersecting and complementary strategies are needed to *protect* against displacement, *preserve* existing affordability, and *produce* new affordable housing. Their [Bay Area Investment without Displacement workshop series](#) focused on maintaining and expanding housing affordability, but locally-owned small businesses, non-profit organizations, and community and cultural anchors are also threatened by gentrification and displacement pressures, and solutions are needed that can help stabilize and sustain these community-serving entities. Displacement is a complex process. It takes many forms and happens at varying paces and scales. Displacement is not just a one-time unfortunate event; it has long-lasting consequences for families and their communities, with low-income people and people of color often hit hardest.

Additional Resources:

- Urban Displacement Project: <https://www.urbandisplacement.org/>
- APA Knowledgebase Collection: Social Equity, <https://www.planning.org/knowledgebase/equity/>

- **ADDRESSING EQUITY THROUGH GENERAL PLANS AND ZONING CODES:** Incorporating Equity and Environmental Justice into General Plans and Zoning Codes: Guidance on Implementing SB 1000 in California, [Arlin Benavides](#), [CivicSpark Fellow](#), [Local Government Commission](#) (40 minutes) (1:55 – 2:35 p.m.)

Learn techniques and strategies, based on recent experiences in Tulare County, from Arlin Benavides on how incorporate EJ-related policies and goals into local plans and zoning codes as a way to implement SB 1000 and move forward with meaningful implementation.

Additional Resources:

- Housing for Diversity: Ending Segregation Through Zoning, APA Learn Resource: <https://learn.planning.org/local/catalog/view/product.php?productid=655>
- APA Toolkit to Integrate Health and Equity Into Comprehensive Plans, Sagar Shah, PhD, AICP, Brittany Wong: <https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9201866/>

- APA partner Taylor & Francis has curated a collection of scholarly content "much of it free to view or open access" on racism, social and economic justice, and more. Free resources on racism and inequality, <https://taylorandfrancis.com/socialjustice/>
- **Break-Out Discussion:** What have you done in your community related to equity or environmental justice, and/or what are you planning to do differently based on what you've learned today? (20 minutes) (2:35 – 2:55 p.m.)
- **CONCLUDING REMARKS AND PROGRAM EVALUATION (5 minutes) (2:55 – 3 p.m.)**

Julia Lave-Johnston, President, California Chapter of the American Planning Association (5 Minutes)

Program Evaluation: Survey Monkey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5KTTM9B>

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